

order disallowing the duplicate Proofs of Claim against USA Commercial Mortgage Company ("USACM") to the extent such claims are duplicates of another claim that was filed by the same claimant. This Objection is supported by the Court's record and the Declaration of Edward M. Burr in Support of Omnibus Objections to Duplicate Proofs of Claim (the "Burr Decl.") filed with the Court today.

## I. JURISDICTION

The Court has jurisdiction over this Objection pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 1334 and 157. Venue is appropriate under 28 U.S.C. §§ 1408 and 1409. This matter is a core proceeding under 28 U.S.C. § 502 and Bankruptcy Rule 3007. The statutory predicate for the relief requested herein are 11 U.S.C. § 502 and Bankruptcy Rule 3007.

## II. BACKGROUND

- 1. On April 13, 2006 ("Petition Date"), USACM, USA Securities, LLC ("USA Securities"), USA Capital Realty Advisors, LLC ("USA Realty"), USA Capital Diversified Trust Deed Fund, LLC ("DTDF"), and USA Capital First Trust Deed Fund, LLC ("FTDF," together with DTDF, the "Funds") (collectively, the "Debtors"), filed voluntary petitions for relief under chapter 11 of the Bankruptcy Code. Debtors continued to operate their businesses, if any, as debtors-in-possession pursuant to sections 1107(a) and 1108 of the Bankruptcy Code. Debtors' post-petition management of the Debtors was under the direction of Thomas J. Allison of Mesirow Financial Interim Management, LLC ("Mesirow"), who served as the Chief Restructuring Officer.
- 2. On January 8, 2007, this Court entered its Order Confirming the "Debtors' Third Amended Joint Chapter 11 Plan of Reorganization" as Modified Herein [Docket No. 2376] (the "Confirmation Order"). Under the Plan, the USACM Trust is the successor to USACM with respect to standing to seek allowance and disallowance of Claims. The



USACM Trust exists as of the Effective Date of the Plan, which was March 12, 2007. Geoffrey L. Berman is the Trustee.

## III. APPLICABLE AUTHORITY

- 1. Under the Bankruptcy Code, any Claim for which a proof of claim has been filed will be allowed unless a party in interest objects. If a party in interest objects to the proof of claim, the Court, after notice and hearing, shall determine the amount of the Claim and shall allow the Claim except to the extent that the Claim is "unenforceable against the debtor . . . under any . . . applicable law for a reason other than because such claim is contingent or unmatured." 11 U.S.C. § 502(b).
- 2. The USACM Trust is entitled to object to proofs of claim under 11 U.S.C. § 502(a). This objection is timely under the confirmed Plan, as the deadline for such objections has been extended to February 9, 2009, by this Court's orders.
- 3. A properly filed proof of claim is presumed valid under Bankruptcy Rule 3001(f). However, once an objection to the proof of claim controverts the presumption, the creditor ultimately bears the burden of persuasion as to the validity and amount of the claim. *See Ashford v. Consolidated Pioneer Mortg.* (*In re Consolidated Pioneer Mortg.*), 178 B.R. 222, 226 (B.A.P. 9th Cir. 1995), *aff'd*, 91 F.3d 151 (9th Cir. 1996). The ultimate burden of proof as to the validity of a proof of claim "remains at all times upon the claimant." *Lundell v. Anchor Constr. Specialists, Inc. (In re Lundell)*, 223 F.3d 1035, 1039 (9th Cir. 2000).

## IV. OBJECTION TO CLAIMS LISTED IN EXHIBIT A

1. **Exhibit A,** attached, lists Proofs of Claim that appear to be duplicates of other claim(s) filed in the USACM bankruptcy estate. **Exhibit A** identifies the claimant, the claimant's address, the Duplicate Proof of Claim number, the amount of the duplicate claim, the basis for objection, the surviving claim number, and the amount of the surviving